

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated May 16, 2005, Applicant hereby makes the following response. Claims 5, 6 and 11-15 are pending for prosecution with Claims 5, 11 and 13 being independent. Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 13-15.

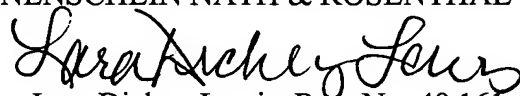
Claims 5-6 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. Patent No. 6,528,033 to Barker et al.. Applicant respectfully submits that Barker is not prior art. Barker's earliest effective filing date is January 18, 2000. Applicant's earliest effective filing date is April 6, 1999 via priority Japanese Application No. P11-099408. Because Barker did not issue from an application with an effective filing date (January 18, 2000) before Applicant's invention date (April 6, 1999), Barker is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and believes that the claims represent allowable subject matter. However, if the Examiner desires, Applicant is ready for a telephone interview to expedite prosecution. As always, the Examiner is free to call the undersigned at 816.460.2516. Should any fees be necessitated by this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any such fees from Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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